

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 9 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 2, 6, and 10 have been amended, and claims 15-17 have been added. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-8, and 10-17 are pending and under consideration.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

In the Office Action, at page 2, item 4, the Examiner indicated that claims 2-5, 7, 8, and 10-14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of claims 1 and 9 have been incorporated into now-independent claims 2 and 10, respectively, and that claims 2-8, and 10-14 are now allowable.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

In the Office Action, at page 2 the Examiner rejected claims 1, 6, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Haskell, (US 281,268 – hereinafter Haskell). Additionally, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by George (US 2,574,384 - hereinafter George) or Neesham (US 1,015,455 - hereinafter Neesham) or Churchill (US 1,946,149 - hereinafter Churchill). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicant traverses this rejection and respectfully requests reconsideration.

Claims 1 and 9 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of claims 1 and 9 have been incorporated into now-independent claims 2 and 10, respectively, in accordance with the Examiner's indicated allowability of 2-5, 7, 8, and 10-14, if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-8, and 10-14 are now allowable.

NEW CLAIMS:

Applicant respectfully submits that for at least similar reasons as the Examiner's stated allowability of claims 2 and 10 as rewritten in independent form, new claims 15-17 patentably distinguish over the cited art, and should be allowable.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the cited art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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